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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.	
09/944,118	09/04/2001	Takaharu Hutamura	11-058	1726	
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	ETHARDS, PLC	•	EXAMINER		
SUITE 10	ER BACON DRIVE		NGUYEN,	NGUYEN, DANNY	
RESTON, V.	A 20190		ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER	
			2836		
			DATE MAILED: 05/21/2003	• .	

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary Danny Nguyen	,	Application No.	Applicant(s)					
Examiner Danny Nguyen 2336 - The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address Period for Reply A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 2 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION. Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.35(a). In one event, however, may a reply be timely filled the provision of 37 CFR 1.35(a). In one event, however, may a reply be timely filled the provision of 37 CFR 1.35(a). In one event, however, may a reply be timely filled the provision of 37 CFR 1.35(a). In one event, however, may a reply be timely filled the provision of 37 CFR 1.35(a). In one event, however, may a reply be timely filled the provision of 37 CFR 1.35(a). In one event, however, may a reply be timely filled the provision of 18 the provision of 28 CFR 1.35(a). In one event, however, may a reply be timely filled the provision of 18 communication for each greated the filled the provision of 37 CFR 1.35(a). In one event, however, may a reply be timely filled the provision of 18 communication for all owners of the solid provision of 18 communication of 18 c								
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Application/Control Number: 09/944,118

Art Unit: 2836

DETAILED ACTION

Drawings

1. The formal drawings filed on 10/30/2001 are accepted.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless -

- (a) the invention was known or used by others in this country, or patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country, before the invention thereof by the applicant for a patent.
- 2. Claims 1, 5, 6, 10, 11, 15 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(a) as being anticipated by Nguyen (USPN 6,069,471).

Regarding to claims 1, 6, 11, Nguyen discloses a drive circuit for driving a switching element (see figures 1 and 2) comprises a high-side switching circuit (112) connected between power supply line (Vdc); a low-side switching circuit (114) connected in series with the high-side switching circuit through an output terminal (110); a voltage detector (106) detecting a voltage appearing at the output terminal (110), wherein the low-side switching circuit is controlled to be turned off when the voltage detected by the voltage detector is lower than the predetermined value of the switching element (114)(see col. 1, lines 59-60), and wherein the high-side switching circuit is turned off when the voltage detected by the voltage detector is higher than a predetermined threshold (see cols 1 and 2, lines 54-3).

Regarding to claims 5, 10, 15, Nguyen discloses the voltage detector is implemented by a voltage divider (resistors 351 and 352).

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

- (a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negatived by the manner in which the invention was made.
- 3. Claims 2-4, 7-9, 12-14 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Nguyen in view of Kato (USPN 6,316,999). Nguyen discloses the low-side switching, and the high side switching circuits (112, 114) include a comparing circuit (310) comparing the output voltage detected by the voltage detector with the off state decision voltage, and a logic circuit (308), a pre-driver (320), a decision transistor (312). Nguyen does not disclose an output transistor. Kato discloses an output transistor (including M70 and M70a shown in figures 1 and 2). It would have been obvious to one having skill in the art to combine the circuit of Nguyen with an output transistor in order to prevent both high and low transistor being off at the same time (Kato, col. 17, lines 28-30).

Conclusion

4. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Danny Nguyen whose telephone number is (703)-305-5988. The examiner can normally be reached on Mon to Fri 8:00 AM to 4:30 PM.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Brian Sircus can be reached on (703)-308-3119. The fax phone numbers

for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned are (703)-872-9318 for regular communications and (703)-872-9319 for After Final communications.

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the receptionist whose telephone number is (703)-308-0956.

DN

DN

May 16, 2003

BRIAN STRCUS

SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER TECHNOLOGY CENTER 2800